

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5739

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0771

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GROUP OF TWELVE

REFS: A) CARACAS 1332, B) STATE 249215

1. RE REF A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE GROUP OF TWELVE EMBASSY RECORDS SHOW THAT THE TWELVE ARE A COALITION OF CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUSLY AND/OR IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES. COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO REF B FOLLOWS:

A. FELIPE MANTICA. A LIFELONG ANTI-SOMOCISTA BUSINESSMAN, WHOSE FAMILY OWNS LARGEST CHAIN OF SUPERMARKETS IN NICARAGUA. MANTICA IS DESCRIBED AS A MAN OF GREAT SOCIAL SENSIBILITY. HIS FAMILY HAS REPORTEDLY SPENT ALMOST 1.5 MILLION DOLLARS TO DATE TO SUPPORT A FOUNDATION THAT PROVIDES EDUCATION FOR THE POOR. MANTICA HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE CATHOLIC PENTACOSTAL (CHARISMATIC) MOVEMENT.

B. EMILIO BALTODANO. LIKE MANTICA, BALTODANO WAS A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN (GENERAL MANAGER OF CAFE SOLUBLE) WHO IS ALSO DEDICATED TO THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT. LAST YEAR HE REPORTEDLY SOLD ALL HIS ASSETS IN NICARAGUA AND RETIRED FROM BUSINESS

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ACTIVITY. AT THE SAME TIME HE BECAME ACTIVE IN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. ONE OF BALTODANO'S SONES, ALVARO, PARTICIPATED IN THE FSLN ATTACK ON THE MASAY GARRISON IN OCTOBER 1977 AND SUBSEQUENTLY SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN MANAGUA. OTHER CLOSE RELATIVES HOLD SUB-CABINET JOBS IN GON. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE NOW IN COSTA RICA.

C. JOAQUIN CUADRA CHAMORRO. CUADRA CHAMORRO IS A COUSIN OF ALFREDO PELLAS, WHO IS PROBABLY THE SECOND WEALTHIEST MAN IN NICARAGUA. HE

IS CONSIDERED QUITE CONSERVATIVE AND HAS BEEN A RESPECTED LAWYER FOR MANY LARGE CORPORATIONS, BOTH NICARAGUAN AND FOREIGN. HIS SON, JOAQUIN CUADRA LACAYO, IS REPORTEDLY WITH THE FSLN GUERRILLAS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN NICARAGUA.

D. FATHER MIGUEL D'ESCOTO. FATHER D'ESCOTO IS THE SON OF A RETIRED NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR WHO WAS FORMERLY A MEMBER OF THE SOMOZA INNER CIRCLE. D'ESCOTO LIVVED IN CHILE IN THE 1970'S AND HAD CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE CHILEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. HE IS SAID TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO FREI'S VICTORY IN 1964. HE HAS BEEN LONG ACTIVE IN ANTI-SOMOZA CAUSES. HE TESTIFIED AGAINST ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS IN 1977. HE IS THE PUBLISHER OF ORBIS BOOKS (KNEW YORK) WHICH IS OWNED BY THE MARYKNOLL ORDER. E. RICARDO CORONEL KAUTZ. SON OF THE NOTED POET JOSE CORONEL URTECHO, WHO WAS FORMERLY ACTIVE IN IN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND NOW RESIDES IN COSTA RICA.

F. FATHER FERNANDO CARDENAL. BROTHER OF THE SELF-DESCRIBED MARXIST PRIEST ERNESTO CARDENAL. FERNANDO CARDENAS WAS IDENTIFIED IN 1974 AS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE MOVMIENTO CRISTIANO, WHICH HAS LINKS TO THE FSLN. HE WAS A FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE WITNESS IN 1976.

G. CASIMIRO SOTELO. LONG-TIME CALIFORNIA RESIDENT, REPORTEDLY A U.S. CITIZEN WITH FSLN CONNECTIONS. ARCHITECT BY PROFESSION BUT REPORTEDLY RUNS A CHAIN OF BEAUTY PARLORS IN CALIFORNIA.

H. ARTURO CRUZ. EDUCATED IN THE US, REPORTEDLY WORKS FOR IDB AND MAY BE MEXICAN RESIDENT OR NATURALIZED CITIZEN, AND SAID TO BE AN ANTI-COMMUNIST. HE HAD A BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO AS A NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER WHO REPORTEDLY WAS INVOLVED IN THE 1954 CONSPIRACY AGAINST ANASTASIO CONFIDENTIAL

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SOMOZA GARCIA AND AS A RESULT IT IS RUMORED THAT HE WAS TORTURED AND KILLED.

I. ERNESTO CASTILLO. DESCRIBED AS A PROTEGE OF THE MANTICA FAMILY.

J. SERGIO RAMIREZ. REPUTED TO BE A MARXIST.

K. CARLOS TUNNERMAN. CONSIDERED ANTI-SOMOZA DURING HIS TENURE AS RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF NICARAGUA (UNAN). CALLED BY ACADEMIC CIRCLES AN EXCELLENT RECTOR HIS FIRST TERM WHO POLITICIZED THE CAMPUT IN HIS SECOND TERM. RESIDES IN COSTA RICA.

L CARLOS GUTIERREZ. NO DATA AVAILABLE.

2. COMMENT: THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE GROUP OF TWELVE CANNOT BE SAID TO HAVE EXERCISE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN NICARAGUA. THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS IMPORTANT AS A LINK BETWEEN THE FSLN AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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Message Attributes

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